

Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Virginia Department of Health,
1st floor Conference Room - 109 Governor Street - Richmond, Virginia 23219

April 10, 2007

Member Attendees: Jane Cabarrus, Annette Holmes, Baxter Harrington, David Simmons, Lucie Ferguson, Gail Jennings, and Rudolph Wilson.

Absent: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Judy Anderson, Paul Puryear, Michael Pyles, Pharia Le

OMH Staff: Karen E. Reed, Cynthia Beadle, Ellen McCutcheon

Welcome:

MHAC members/ Office of Minority Health (OMH) staff and public attendees introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their organizational affiliation.

Adoption of Agenda:

MHAC members adopted the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2007 Meeting:

Lucie Ferguson suggested a few changes to the minutes. MHAC members agreed to the changes and approved minutes with changes. Approved minutes will be posted on OMH and Town Hall websites.

Meeting Facilitator Selection:

MHAC members selected Baxter Harrington as MHAC facilitator and Annette Holmes as back-up facilitator.

MHAC Membership Change:

Karen Reed informed the group that Pharia Le is moving from Virginia therefore she is resigning from MHAC. Ms Lee suggested a couple persons for replacement – the names would be forwarded to Dr. Stroube for consideration.

Office of Minority Health changes:

Karen Reed informed group that Rene Cabral-Daniels left her position as Director of Office of Health Policy and Planning at the end of March 2007. Virginia Department of Health is currently in the selection process for a new Director. The position now is titled Director of Minority Health and Public Policy. The position now requires the incumbent to be a licensed medical physician.

MHAC members expressed hope that the new director would be knowledgeable on diversity and continue to recognize the importance of the MHAC committee. OMH will send notification to MHAC members once the position has been filled.

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MHAC members would like to invite the new director to the next MHAC meeting in July.

MHAC members decided that they would send a letter to Dr. Stroube suggesting that VDH host a reception for the new Director. The reception would be open to the public and introduce the new Director to the community which would bring MHAC to the public eye. If this is not approved, Lucie Ferguson said that she would investigate to determine if Bon Secours Health Systems may be able to host such an event. The letter would be forwarded to OMH staff to forward to Commissioner Dr. Stroube.

MHAC Brainstorming Summary/Action Item Review: The February 7, 2007 minutes

Karen Reed reminded the group that Dr. Stroube had responded to their request at the February 7, 2007 meeting. Dr. Stroube's response was communicated to the group via email with draft minutes on February 28, 2007. The group requested that Dr. Stroube's response be read:

"Governor Kaine's Commission on Health Reform is focusing on three areas in prevention-infant mortality, obesity, and smoking. VDH has consequently moved to fund new initiatives for infant mortality and obesity, both of which disproportionately impact on minority populations. Additionally, VDH faces unanticipated VITA charges which could be as much as \$4 million over estimates. This is putting extreme pressures on the budgets of all units within VDH. Last year I met with the leadership of the MHAC and agreed that I would put forward a proposal to include in the Governor's budget for next year. To date I have not received that request and consequently there is no funding in the 2007-2008 VDH budget to support the MHAC efforts directly. Additionally, the General Assembly has passed legislation that would require the Commissioner to designate a senior level licensed physician to coordinate minority health efforts. There is no funding with this, so we will have to go into other budgets to identify funding to pay for this. Taking into account all of this, there is no available funding to support additional MHAC efforts in the current biennial budget. The next opportunity will be in the Governor's biennial budget proposal which will be prepared later this year and will begin in July, 2008."

"I would recommend that members of the MHAC participate in the public process for the Governor's Health Care Reform Commission and provides them with their views in the public comment period that will begin later this Spring. The purpose of the MHAC is to provide advice and guidance on minority health issues to the Commissioner and VDH and I welcome their review of VDH programs. Once identified, I expect that the new minority health physician will be charged with reviewing much of what the MHAC is requesting."

MHAC Members expressed that the concerns of the MHAC not be considered as less important as other departments yet, with expectancy to make an impact within the community. Our expression of needs may require further consideration of implementation, but at the same time, there may be further need for consideration of how the financial needs of MHAC might be met in order that we accomplish our necessary goals.)

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MHAC members reiterated that they are an advisory committee and all recommendation would be in the form of a proposal. MHAC would provide recommendation for areas that were lacking in funding. These areas with out MHAC support could request funding on their own.

It was further stated that the MHAC wishes to serve as a united /collaborative partner with the incoming director and be aware of their ideas and visions for the department. MHAC would/should also be positioned to share its interests that it desires for the new director to give priority if not already embedded within their plan or vision.

Request for 2007 Legislative Data:

MHAC members requested a listing of health related bills viewed by VDH in the last General Assembly session. OMH staff agreed to provide this data along with the minutes.

MHAC Next Steps –

- *Budget Consideration for three purposes*
 - *A state wide survey to be conducted this year to access the tempo of the current degree of minority diversity of healthcare issues*
 - *To conduct A State Wide Minority Health Conference*
 - *And Town Hall Meeting for the fiscal year 2008*

Announcements:

MHAC member, Gail Jennings informed the committee that their may be a possibility of small grant funds related to chronic disease. The Office of Minority Health will pursue further information.

The meeting was adjourned.

At the conclusion of the meeting, MHAC members were introduced to Ms. Diane Powers, Director of Communications for the Virginia Department of Health. Ms. Powers spoke briefly about her functions and made herself available to discuss future communication resources.

Future MHAC Meeting Dates – 2007

July 10, 2007

October 9, 2007

**Location – Virginia Department of Health, 109 Governor Street,
First Floor Conference Room - Richmond, VA**

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Questions or special needs – please contact: Cynthia Beadle, Minority Health Specialist – 804-864-7429 – Cindi.Beadle@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by: Ellen McCutcheon/Cynthia Beadle

Minutes reviewed/submitted by: Baxter Harrington, MHAC Facilitator